Astron Sixty-Ninth Annual Report of the Visitors of the University Observatory for the Year

1943

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One vacancy.

LORD CHERWELL, M.A., F.R.S., Fellow of Wadham and Student of Christ Church.

This report refers to the calendar year 1943.

I. Staff and Work

The war-time staff of the Observatory remains unchanged. The Acting-Director, Dr. M. G. Adam, has been responsible for the arrangement of teaching facilities in the Observatory for R.A.F. and R.N. Cadets, and has maintained her teaching in physics. During the year she was elected a member of the Council of the Royal Astronomical Society, thus becoming the first woman Fellow to attain that honour.

Dr. D. S. Evans has divided with Dr. Adam the work of teaching Cadets in the Observatory, has continued his activities as Editor of the *Observatory Magazine*, and has been responsible for much useful work in making the results of science intelligible to a wide audience. His principal work, however, has continued to be research in the application of physics to medicine, carried

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out in collaboration with Dr. Mendelssohn at the Clarendon Laboratory.

It is only fitting that special reference should be made to the work of Miss E. F. Bellamy. For some years previous to the war her principal duties in connexion with the International Seismological Summary, that indispensable aid to the study of seismology, had consisted in part of collating readings and records from several hundred stations all over the world, in part of the full editorial responsibility for the production of the Summary. and in part of the preparation from time to time of exceedingly useful indices of seismological activity. On the outbreak of war Miss Bellamy continued these already sufficiently onerous duties, made not less so by war-time restrictions, and at the same time undertook the technically and computationally difficult problem of computing epicentral positions and residuals, work formerly carried out by Mr. J. S. Hughes until his enlistment in September 1939. Her work, continuously maintained in spite of indifferent health, has resulted in the preparation, publication, and distribution of practically the whole of the Summary for the year 1934, as well as the computation and preparation of the results for 1935 up till July. In fact she is now preparing material more rapidly than the printers can set up the copy. This work, carried out during the last eighteen months singlehanded, without even computational assistance, represents a substantial contribution to seismology, even on peace-time standards, and is one for which the Observatory owes a great debt of gratitude to Miss Bellamy.

II. Instruction

Instruction of R.A.F. and R.N. Cadets has, as already noted, continued throughout the year. The courses involve three lectures and two hours practical work on astronomy per week, as well as some instruction in the use of the 12-inch telescope. The first course of R.A.F. Cadets finished in March 1943; this was followed by a second course with R.A.F. and R.N. Cadets which ran from April to September, while a third course for R.A.F. and R.N. Cadets commenced in October.

By special arrangement the Observatory was open to visitors during the Hilary Term, but trouble then developed with the dome of the 12-inch telescope which made it impossible to continue these facilities. Arrangements for the repair of the dome have been made, but shortage of material has as yet not permitted the commencement of the work.

H. H. PLASKETT.

UNIVERSITY OBSERVATORY, OXFORD. 14 April 1944.